

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 637
By DuBois

A RESOLUTION to honor the life and memory of Curtis
Marshall Selle of Columbia.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Curtis Marshall Selle, March 27, 2003 at the age of 39; and

WHEREAS, Curtis M. Selle was a loving husband, devoted to his family, an exemplary public servant, and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Curtis Selle was born in St. Louis, Missouri on February 22, 1964 and was raised in Spring Hill, Tennessee, where he remained a resident until graduating from Columbia's Central High School in May 1982. He then entered the United States Marine Corps; and

WHEREAS, demonstrating his patriotism, his courage and his noble fidelity to the path of justice, Curtis Selle ably served two tours of duty in Beirut, Lebanon during the Spring and Fall of 1983 when the U. S. Embassy and the Marine Barracks were brutally attacked and

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where he received his first Purple Heart medal. He also served this great country when he was stationed in Okinawa, Japan; Thailand where he learned to speak Thai; Diego Garcia, Turkey, and several other foreign countries; and

WHEREAS, following his honorable discharge from the United States Marine Corps in 1985, Curtis Selle matriculated at Middle Tennessee State University, earning his Bachelor of Science degree in Aerospace in 1989; and

WHEREAS, after graduation, Curtis Selle interviewed with American Eagle and was put on a waiting list for a pilot's position. He accepted a position with his father's firm as Chief Pilot of Flight Operations and also entered into business with his mother. Curtis Selle continued to flight instruct and fly for fun in his leisure time even helping his father earn his Private Pilot's Certificate; and

WHEREAS, Curtis Selle, who had become a reservist, volunteered to serve during Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm in the fall of 1990 and winter of 1991; and

WHEREAS, ever the bold patriot, Mr. Selle offered himself in battle as the embodiment of love and justice itself; wounded in combat, he received another Purple Heart for his service; and

WHEREAS, in 1993, Curtis Selle again traveled overseas, this time as a civilian, to work on the U.S. Air Force base on Wake Island managing the Thai workers contracted to the Air Force; and

WHEREAS, returning to the United States in the Fall of 1994, Curtis Selle married in the Spring of 1995, Ms. Teal Selle; and

WHEREAS, Curtis Selle commenced employment as a field appraiser for the Office of the Assessor of Property for Maury County; recently promoted to the position of parcel mapper, Curtis Selle accepted the responsibilities of this position which he fulfilled with great acuity even after he was offered the position of Chief Pilot with Hauler's Insurance; and

WHEREAS, maintaining a part-time affiliation with the Assessor of Property's office, Curtis Selle accepted the flight position, thus fulfilling his lifelong dream of a career in Aviation as a professional pilot; and

WHEREAS, piloting his first flight in June of 1978 at the age of 14, Curtis Selle began fulfilling his dream of flying in earnest with flight lessons the Fall of 1979 and first soloed July 29, 1980 after his 16th birthday; and

WHEREAS, while a student at Middle Tennessee State University, Curtis Selle became a Certified Flight Instructor – Instruments (CFII) and also earned the Rating of Multi-engine, and the highest Rating available through the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) of Airline Transport Pilot (ATP). Curtis Selle also studied aerobatics and recently purchased an Aerobatic airplane in which he was going to begin teaching lessons in the Spring of 2003; and

WHEREAS, Curtis Selle continued pursuing a career in aviation when he accepted employment with Hauler's Insurance, for which company he flew a Twin Engine Turbo Aero Commander; and

WHEREAS, at the time of his death, Curtis Selle had accumulated more than 3,800 hours of flight time in dozens of different aircraft, and was active in the Wing Nuts Experimental Aircraft Association based at the Lewisburg airport, serving as this fine organization's President. Curtis Selle was also passionate about the Young Eagles Program which introduces aviation and first flights to young people and had a goal for 2003 of introducing 100 children to the experience of flying; and

WHEREAS, Curtis Selle is remembered by his friends, students, and colleagues as an "experienced, seasoned pilot" who was "skilled in many areas, strict with his students and never compromised when it came to safety", and

WHEREAS, Curtis Selle was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Columbia, which he served faithfully in various youth groups for many years; he was also a former member of Rotary International, a member of Herbert Griffin American Legion Post 19, and the Columbia Elks Lodge 686; and

WHEREAS, Curtis Selle was a flight instructor of extraordinary talent and sensitivity, being able to inspire his students to be all that they could be and to achieve more than they ever imagined; and

WHEREAS, a true family man, Curtis Selle will be dearly and daily remembered by his wife, Teal Selle and her two children Brandon and Kristin Dugger, his mother, Patricia Selle, his father and step-mother, Fred and Sandra Selle, his siblings, Chris Selle, Tricia and Todd Bill, Cheryl and Paul Watson, and Richard and Pat Stewart, and his step-sisters, Laura, Martha, and Merri Johnson; and

WHEREAS, this fine family is now left with the extraordinary task of accepting the tragic passing of this great man, whom they knew intimately and loved expressly; and

WHEREAS, the lives of Curtis Selle's family, colleagues and friends were enriched by his wisdom, his humanity and the great joy he took in people and in his profession; he leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Curtis Selle lived by and truly embodied the words of the Marine Corps Prayer:

Almighty Father, whose command is over all and whose love never fails, make me aware of thy presence and obedient to thy will. Keep me true to my best self, guarding me against dishonesty in purpose and deed and helping me to live so that I can face my fellow Marines, my loved ones, and Thee without shame or fear. Protect my family. Give me the will to do the work of a Marine and to accept my share of responsibilities with vigor and enthusiasm. Grant me the courage to be proficient in my daily performance. Keep me loyal and faithful to my superiors and to the duties my country and the Marine Corps have entrusted to me. Make me considerate of those committed to my leadership. Help me wear my uniform with dignity, and let it remind me daily of the traditions, which I must uphold.

If I am inclined to doubt, steady my faith; if I am tempted, make me strong to resist; if I should miss the mark, give me the courage to try again.

Guide me with the light of truth and grant wisdom by which I may understand the answer to my prayer. Amen.

WHEREAS, with his passing, Columbia has lost a leader, Tennessee has lost a true volunteer and an extraordinary human being and America has lost a patriot; as such, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember and give thanks to the Almighty for creating the bountiful life and legacy of this exceptional human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Curtis Marshall Selle, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character as a Marine, pilot, a beloved husband, and family man and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to his wife, and to the family and friends of Curtis Marshall Selle.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.